



State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

FROM: Department of Parks and Recreation
1416 Ninth Street
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

PROJECT TITLE: Borrego Palm Canyon Trail Rehabilitation (04/05-CD-20)

LOCATION: Anza-Borrego Desert State Park

COUNTY: San Diego

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT: The purpose of this project is to rehabilitate/repair Borrego Palm Canyon Trail, a Class I trail destroyed by flash flooding in September 2004. This trail is 1.5 miles long extending from Borrego Palm Canyon campground up the canyon to a grove of native fan palms. Habitat in the area is a broad alluvial fan, shifting seasonal streambed, and typical Colorado Desert vegetation. The federally-endangered Peninsular Bighorn Sheep frequents the canyon area. Rehabilitating the trail will involve cutting through or relocating downed fan palm trunks deposited during the flood, creating steps at certain locations using native rock, crossing the stream at 3 locations, removing debris from the trail, and replacement of interpretive signs along a portion of the trail. In addition, several small barricades will be constructed out of downed palm trees at the native palm grove to restrict public access and allow for palm grove recovery. Portions of the old trail will be incorporated into the new trail wherever possible. A State Parks archeologist will be present during trail repair activities in locations with known archeological sites to ensure the avoidance of impacts to cultural resources. No trail repair activities will occur between June 1 and October 1 to minimize potential disturbance to bighorn sheep. This project is related to a previous project (SCH No. 200501896; 1/10/05) involving emergency trail clean-up for public safety.

PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING THE PROJECT: California Department of Parks and Recreation

NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT: Colorado Desert District

EXEMPT STATUS:

- ☐ Declared Emergency (Section 15269(a))
☐ Emergency Project (Section 15269(b) and (c))
☐ Statutory Exemption (Section)
☒ **Categorical Exemption**

Class: 1

Section: 15301

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT: Repair and maintenance of an existing facility (pedestrian trail) with no expansion of an existing use. Repair of an existing facility to improve public safety.

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Original Signed by:

Mat Fuzie
District Superintendent
Colorado Desert District

3/2/05
DATE